file 200 "Liberty" claim M. Lissfelt
Sam Bonth
Not Cleared by H (3)

DEPARTMENT OF STATE

Washington, D.C. 20520

(Back to state from P. Feb. 13, 1969 HC)

Honorable Dominick V. Daniels
House of Representatives
Washington, D. C. 20515

Dear Congressman Daniels:

I have received your inquiry dated January 23 regarding State Senator William F. Kelly's request on behalf of Mr. Chmel's class at George Washington Junior High School for information about the Israeli attack on the USS LIBERTY in 1967.

The Government of Israel informed the U.S. of the attack by its air and sea forces on the USS LIBERTY shortly after it took place on June 8, 1967. It expressed regret for what it described as a tragic accident, extended condolences, and offered to make amends for the loss of life and material damage. We presented a bill of claims to the Israeli Government for $3.3 million, on behalf of the families of the personnel killed. Israel paid this claim in full.

In July 1968, we presented the Israeli Government a claim for damages to the ship. Other claims for injuries and losses among the crew, in addition to the family claims already paid, are still in preparation. We have every reason to believe that these claims, once submitted, as well as the ship damage claim will be satisfactorily settled.

A United States Navy Court of Inquiry made a thorough investigation of the USS LIBERTY incident, and the Department of Defense released the results of this investigation. I am enclosing a copy of the summary of the proceedings of the Court of Inquiry in the belief that it will be of interest to Mr. Chmel's social studies class.

I hope the foregoing information and the enclosed material will be helpful to you in replying to the Senator.

Sincerely yours,

William B. Macomber, Jr.
Assistant Secretary for
Congressional Relations

Enclosures:
1. Correspondence returned.
2. Material as stated.

DEPARTMENT OF STATE A/CDC/MR
REVIEWED BY Tom Kelley DATE 1/24/83
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